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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	156	Press Mis.
Dated	6-2	19 1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

18

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
6th February 1871.*

No. 17. Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Trichinopoly, 26th January 1871, No. 5:—

I have the honour to enclose, for the information of Government, a report on the late Streerungum feast, made by Mr. Maltby, Assistant Collector, who was in charge of the sanitary and other arrangements during the festival.

2. The expenditure is 90 Rupees below that incurred last year.

From T. J. MALTBY, Esq., Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector, Trichinopoly, dated Trichinopoly, 24th January 1871, No. 4.

I have the honour to report that the festival at Streerungum, known by the Tamil name of "Kottara Uthavam," began upon the 22nd of December 1870 and terminated upon the 11th instant.

1. The usual steps were taken to clean the town both inside and outside, and a pure supply of drinking water was ensured by preventing persons from bathing and washing dirty clothes in those parts of the Natt channel above the town of Streerungum.

2. The people were warned daily by beat of tom-tom to attend to the cleanliness of their houses, &c., and printed notices regarding the sanitary measures to be observed were posted up in different parts of the town, whilst simple instructions regarding the treatment of cholera were likewise made known in a similar manner.

3. Latrines upon the dry-earth system were constructed in different parts outside the pagoda walls, and were separately available for both males and females.

4. As cholera had been prevalent, not only in the surrounding districts, but in Trichinopoly itself, there was every reason to apprehend its appearance at the festival.

5. I am, however, happy to be able to state that the number of deaths occurring from cholera was limited to three, and that these might possibly have been prevented had it not been for the delay which occurred, previous to the admittance of these cases into the temporary hospital established for the treatment and segregation of the sick, owing to the neglect which occurred in applying for immediate assistance.

6. The number of persons treated for cholera and choleraic diarrhoea amounted to 100. Of this number, five only were cases of aggravated cholera, whilst the remaining cases were at once treated and cured with doses of chlorodyne taken in brandy and water. Simple fever was attended to in seventy-one cases, but no deaths occurred.

7. The attendance at the festival was unusually small compared with previous years, not exceeding 20,000 persons. This falling off in the numbers of pilgrims must be attributed to the notices published by Collectors in this and the neighbouring districts, to the effect that cholera prevailed, and warning people of the risk which they ran by attending the festival.

8. The publication of these notices tended greatly to diminish the crowd of persons which might otherwise have been expected, and no doubt prevented very much of the sickness which might have occurred.

9. I may mention that, had cholera prevailed to any extent, it was my intention to have had large fires lighted wherever it broke out, and I take this opportunity of recommending this plan for cleansing and purifying the air, more especially with fires made of old tar or pitch barrels. The salutary effects of fire cannot be doubted as an important aid, in conjunction with other sanitary measures, in arresting the spread of this most baffling disease.

10. The expenses incurred for constructing latrines, hire of carts, cleaning the streets, and for medicines supplied to the Assistant Apothecary in medical charge amount to Rupees 530-10-10, out of the 700 Rupees sanctioned by Government.

The usual vouchers are herewith enclosed.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,

6th February 1871.

11. Captain Hodges, the Superintendent of Police, had charge of the Police arrangements; and every precaution was taken to keep order and prevent a recurrence of any accidents from overcrowding and crushing.

12. Three or four cases of petty theft occurred, but the culprits were at once arrested and brought to justice. The property stolen was, in each case, recovered and restored to the owners.

13. My acknowledgments are due to the Tahsildar of Trichinopoly, Pattabhiram Pillay, for the assistance which he has invariably afforded upon each occasion of the festival, and I also desire to mention the name of his Goomastah, Rengiengar, with whose zeal upon the occasion I had every reason to be satisfied.

14. I beg also to acknowledge the great assistance derived from Mr. Lincoln, the Assistant Apothecary in charge of the medical arrangements, as this officer, by at once attending to the wants of the sick in his daily rounds through the town, no doubt contributed a great deal to check any incipient illness.

15. This report has been delayed owing to the non-receipt of the accounts from the Tahsildar.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, 6th February 1871, No. 156.

The Government learn with satisfaction that success has attended the precautionary sanitary measures taken during the Streerungum festival at Trichinopoly.

2. The expenditure of Rupees 530-10-10 is sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Trichinopoly.

„ Accountant-General.

„ Inspector-General of Police.

„ Sanitary Commissioner.

„ Board of Revenue.

Statement showing the expenditure incurred
in making the necessary arrangements for the
feast at Sderungam.

Item.	Amount Total.	
	Rs. as p.	M. as p.
Rent paid for the land occupied by 22 Latrines —————	9.	4.
Cost of Materials viz Bamboo & purchased for erecting Latrines and a temporary Hospital —————	224.	3. 6.
Hire paid for erecting ditto —————	92.	4.
Seavenging —————	220.	6.
Cost of Medicines supplied to the Hospital —————		

Wm. A. Lee
Collector

The Collector
26 January 1871

Settle paid to Mr. A. P. Thevar
at one Rupee per day — 20.00

600.00

Subtract the amount disbursed
from the total of the materials
made after the close of the
feast

70.00

Net Expenditure 530.00

600.00

PUBLIC.

THE COLLECTOR OF TRICHINOPOLY.

Trichy February, 1871.

G. O., 27 February 1871, No. 153.

RECEIVED
NOV. 17. 18.

According sanction to the expenditure of Ru-
pees 500-10-10 incurred on account of sanitary
arrangements made during the festival at Sderung-
am in the Trichinopoly District.

1871.

In a letter from the
Acting Collector of Pichay
dated 28th January 1871.

To.
From the Acting Collector of
Pichay.

To the Chief Secretary to
Government.
St. Louis George

Statement showing the
expenditure incurred in
making the necessary
arrangements for the year
at Pichay.

Done.

In Public 1987.

6. February 1871 No. 156.

The Govt. learn with satisfaction that success
has attended the precautionary sanitary measures taken
during the Pichay epidemic at Pichay.
The expenditure of Rs. 530-10-10

is sanctioned. Rec.

14-18.

Govt. of 1870 Mysore.

Public

To

The Collector of Trichinopoly
see.

Dated July. 6.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 6 July.

1870, No. 100.

No. 17. 12.

According to the Expendi-
ture of Rs. 530-10-10 incurred
on account of Sanitary arrangements
made during the festival at
Srirangapatna in the Trichinopoly
District.